

Message Text

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21 15
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 EUR-25 AF-10 NEA-10

USSS-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /157 W

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O 260510Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1892
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5851

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MARR, UN, AS, XF
SUBJ: UN MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY FORCE

1. EMBASSY IS RELIABLY INFORMED BY PARTICIPANT THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE MET AT LENGTH IN LAST FEW HOURS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PROVISION OF AUSTRALIAN TROOPS TO UN EMERGENCY FORCE. WHILE AUSTRALIAN PROFESSIONALS ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN GOA INVOLVEMENT, THEY ANTICIPATE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT MIGHT AGREE TO PROVIDE TROOP CONTINGENT.

2. NOTE THAT DEFENSE MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BARNARD TOLD PARLIAMENT IN HIS BUDGET ADDRESS AUGUST 22: "THIS GOVERNMENT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE USE OF AUSTRALIAN FORCES ABROAD IN SUPPORT OF UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS, IF THIS SORT OF SITUATION AROSE AND WE COULD MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION".

3. WHITLAM DEPARTED LAST NIGHT ON TRIP TO TOKYO AND PEKING. WE ASSUME ANY DECISION ON AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION WOULD REQUIRE HIS PERSONAL APPROVAL

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AS WELL AS CABINET CONSIDERATION. BARNARD IS ACTING

IN CANBERRA.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD CHANCE GOA
WOULD MAKE AUSTRALIAN FORCES AVAILABLE FOR MIDDLE
EAST PEACE-KEEPING DUTY IF REQUESTED BY UN AND US.
WHITLAM WOULD PROBABLY ALSO WANT REQUEST OF USSR AND/OR
ARAB PARTIES.
GREEN

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NNN

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